



August 28, 2003

Dawn Mehlhaff
Office of the Secretary of State
1100 15th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dawn:

On behalf of Diebold Election Systems, Inc., I am seeking certification of our modified touch screen ballot station the AccuVote-TSx which will operate with firmware version 4.4.3 and GEMS software version 1.18.18. In addition, I would like to ask that this certification request be placed on the agenda of the October 2003 Voting Systems Panel meeting.

As you may know, Diebold has modified its existing AccuVote-TS to reduce the overall weight of each ballot station to 28 lbs. from 48lbs. Diebold has accomplished this weight reduction by offering a more fully integrated voting tablet and booth design. This new design has all the same functionality as the older units, but it now incorporates a removable touch screen tablet that enables poll workers to better accommodate curbside voters. The tablet weighs 10 pounds and can be easily slipped into and out of the booth which serves as a docking station as well as for privacy.

In addition to the overall weight reduction and the curbside voting feature, the new unit has a more convenient attachment of the headset and keypad for voters who use the audio ballot.

The modified AccuVote-TSx units continue to offer a printer on each unit and full battery backup.

These hardware modifications are accompanied by modifications to the ballot station firmware to incorporate design improvements suggested by county election officials who used the touch screens in previous elections.

These improvements include the ability of the voter to:

- self-select the large print (magnify) font option,
- return to the summary screen after reviewing or correcting a screen,

- return to the Instruction screen once they have begun making selections, and
- toggle between languages (e.g., between English and Spanish) during the voting process.

Finally, because this system is being tested in accordance with the 2002 Voting System Standards approved by the Federal Election Commission, the firmware also enables voters to self-select a High Contrast feature which offers better legibility for voters with certain visual impairments.

In summary, the modifications to the AccuVote affect both the hardware and firmware design and offer advantages for all voters, but especially those with special needs. The lighter weight will facilitate transport and set up by poll workers as well as use during curbside voting.

Modifications to both hardware and software have been tested by the Independent Testing Authority and revised in accordance with their direction. The ITA will now undertake functional testing, as a final step in the process, to ensure the hardware, firmware, and software operate as a complete system. Upon completion of this last step, we anticipate receiving ITA approval and our NASED number.

As a follow up to this request, I will be submitting within the next few days a complete packet of information specified in the checklist you provided.

We appreciate your timely attention to this request as we are delivering this product to five California counties, two of which hope to utilize the touch screens for their small UDEL elections, and the remainder of which plan to use them for the March 2004 primary election.

Thank you for your cooperation, Dawn. It is a pleasure to work with you.

Sincerely,

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